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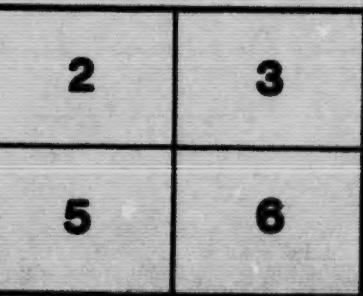
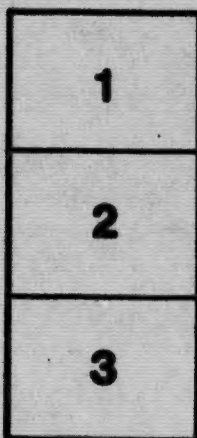
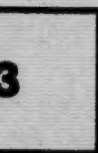
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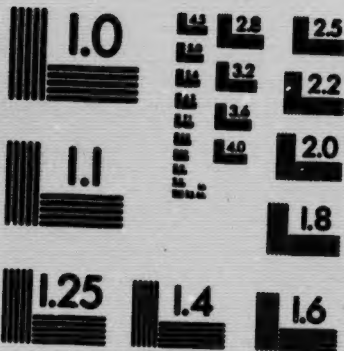
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GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Care, Feeding and Management of Swine

The experience of the countries in which the producing of bacon hogs has longest and most successfully been carried on is that, as a general rule, the produce of the pig pen will be in proportion to the products of the dairy. Swine rearing as investigated in Europe is a highly organised branch of agriculture, secondary to and almost always associated with dairy farming. But it has been proved in the last few years that the marketing end of the business reacts upon production fully as much as do any questions of greater economy in production or available supplies of feed. It is safe to say that if hog raising is found running parallel with the dairying industry in Saskatchewan, taking the rapid development of dairying as a guide and co-operative methods as the key to success, there is, and will be, a marked increase in hog raising in this Province.

That a man to be successful with any line of work must stay with the job, is as true in connection with hog raising as with anything else. The fellow who is always changing, never makes much progress. No man can anticipate the high markets or the low ones, but the man who is always in the business is sure to reap profits when the other fellow is short, that is, when the demand is greater than the supply.

The farmers of Ontario grew wheat until they found they could no longer grow it successfully. Then they went into beef-raising, dairying and hog-raising, with the result that today many of the mortgages have been raised, better buildings erected and many other improvements made. They have established a permanent system of agriculture and hog raising forms part of this system.

Selection of Breeding Animals.

In Saskatchewan, the leading breeds are Yorkshire, Tamworth and Berkshire. It is a decided advantage where the farmers of a locality sink their personal likes and dislikes and raise the same breed and type of hogs, as the district obtains a reputation for producing a large number of hogs of that breed; individual breeders in the district may purchase high priced boars and interchange with their neighbors, which will avoid in-breeding; they are also in a position to place a uniform shipment on the market and will command a higher price for their hogs than would be the case if the farmers of the district raised various breeds and shipped all sizes and colors. This applies more especially to pure breeds, but another type of breeding perhaps more in use among swine breeders is the mating of a pure bred boar with a pure bred or grade sow of another breed. This system has the advantage of increasing the vigor, vitality and feeding capacity of the offspring. The disadvantage is that cross-bred animals do not make satisfactory breeders and must all be marketed for pork so that a herd cannot be built up. Never to go beyond the first cross is a safe rule in crossing breeding. Whichever the method adopted wide-awake men realize it is impossible to make good profits by feeding inferior stock.

The desirable characteristics of the sow are: A lean, clean head, light jaw, strong straight pasterns and rather light shoulders, long deep side, hind quarters well carried out, well developed hams. She should be long in the body with a gentle arch of back from the head to the tail and she should have at least twelve teats.

Care of Breeding Females.

Housing.—Breeding sows should not be closely confined at any time of the year. Exercise is of the first importance. They must, of course, have water and shelter, and it is conceded that a mud bath is nature's way of keeping the skin healthy and free from vermin. A dry sheltered barn with plenty of straw is the best place for them to sleep, a portable pen often serves very well and at farrowing time the individual hog house is often the means of saving every one of a litter of pigs. Small "A" shaped hog houses can easily be built on the average farm at a cost of perhaps from \$9.00 to \$12.00, and these can be moved to any convenient place or transferred from one field to another.

Feeds Before Farrowing.—Mature thrifty sows can be maintained in excellent breeding condition on a ration consisting largely of roots, preferably mangles and sugar beets. As the sow becomes further advanced in the period of gestation, it may be necessary to give more nourishment in a concentrated form. Shorts or middlings or ground oats and barley can be fed diluted with some dairy by-product.

After Farrowing.—Give the sow nothing but warm water for the first twenty-four hours. The feed can be gradually increased from day to day until at the end of five days the sow should be having her normal ration. She should never be fed more than she will eat up clean and at one time and the best ration is one that will produce milk. The little pigs should have a trough by themselves when three weeks old and should be fed, when possible, on shorts and skimmed milk; they should be weaned at from six to seven weeks and the boar pigs that are to be castrated should be attended to at five weeks old. Young pigs should not be allowed to feed out of the same trough as the sow. Never feed pigs under six weeks of age crushed oats unless the hulls have first been sifted out.

Rearing and Finishing the Pigs.

Mention has already been made of the separate feeding trough for the pigs while they are nursing, and it is well to get them started on their grain ration before any attempt is made to wean them. The pigs when weaned, if well managed, should be eating so freely at their own trough that they will virtually have weaned themselves, and thus obviate any wean-lack. A mixture of middlings and chopped oats, supplemented with skim milk or some other dairy by-product, is an excellent ration at this time; it is rich in ash and protein, two very essential elements in building up the body. There is perhaps no cheaper ration for growing pigs than a run of pasture made up of clover or alfalfa or even rape. If alfalfa is used the pigs should be allowed to run into it before it blossoms or otherwise it will become woody. Experiments have shown that a ton of alfalfa contains almost, if not quite, as much body-building materials as a ton of bran, there being about 12 per cent. of protein in bran and 11.8 per cent. in alfalfa. The hog feeder will usually get best returns when he furnishes plenty of protein foods to maintain and develop the pigs in bone and muscle until they reach a weight of 130 to 150 pounds. He can then finish them on a stronger grain ration, such as chopped barley, until they are in prime condition, weighing perhaps 180 to 190, or even 200 pounds. Experiments have shown that the amount of meal required to produce a pound of gain in the hog, increases as the hog increases in weight; that is to say, the most economical gains are made while the pig is still young.

Some Pig Ailments.

Avoid having the sows among cattle or horses that are likely to knock them about and cause accidents or even death to the unborn pigs.

Rheumatism in pigs is caused chiefly by indigestion arising from too much grain and no exercise. Give some physic, get them out in the sun and make them move around on dry footing in the fresh air.

Worms.—Symptoms of worms are languidness accompanied by cough and general lack of thrift. A good remedy is the following: Mix the overnight feed and next morning feed into a thin slop of milk, about one teaspoonful of turpentine to each 80 pounds live-weight of pigs; repeat three mornings in succession and then administer a dose of Epsom Salts of about two ounces to a 100 pound pig.

Skin diseases and parasites if taken in time may be removed by thoroughly washing or dipping the hogs several times, using a two per cent. solution of creolin or one of the coal tar dips. Keep the hog pen whitewashed, and always keep the little pigs dry and warm.

Alfalfa As Hog Pasture.

Since economical pork production depends largely upon the consumption of a large quantity of cheaply grown feed, hogs should, when possible, be pastured on some clean, tender and palatable forage crop, such as clover, alfalfa or rape. While the cost of pork production may be materially reduced in this way, it is desirable to feed grain or other concentrated feed in addition. Mature breeding stock may be maintained on good pasture, but young and growing hogs should receive additional feed. Hog growers differ regarding the quantity of grain to be fed while on pasture, but a medium ration would be one that is equal to about two per cent. of the live weight of the hogs while growing and then a full grain ration when finishing. No hard and fast rule can be laid down for the supplemental grain ration, but not feeding any grain almost invariably results in a stunted hog.

Mr. W. W. Lare of Indian Head, Saskatchewan, who is doing illustration work for the Commission of Conservation, obtained the following results with hogs pastured on less than one acre of alfalfa.

Received from sale of 50 hogs	\$656.60
Feed used:	
Half-ton shorts	\$11.00
150 bus. oats	45.00
400 bus. barley at 40c	160.00
200 bus. of wheat screenings at 50c	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$316.00
Difference	\$340.00
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